

User's Guide

Preferred Midsize Tower Series Desktop System



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CSS Preferred Midsize Tower Features

- 6 disk drive bays: 4 external 5.25" half-height and 2 external 3.5" drive bays
- Enhanced 101-key keyboard
- 200 watt externally switchable power supply

FCC Standards

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) restricts the amount of radiation and radio frequency emissions coming from computing equipment.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help

CSS Labs is not responsible for any radio or television interference caused by unauthorized modifications to this equipment. Operation with non-certified peripherals is likely to result in interference to radio and TV reception.

To ensure compliance to FCC non-interference regulations, peripherals attached to this device require shielded I/O cables.

NOTICE: The use of a non-shielded I/O cable with this device is in violation of U.S. Federal law and will not allow the device to meet the maximum emission limits.

CAUTION: Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the grantee of this device could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Notice

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Section 1 - Introduction

Overview

The Preferred Midsize Desktop System is a versatile, cost effective, and energy efficient computer.

The energy efficient Preferred computer has room for three external 5.25 inch, half-height, one external 3.5 inch half-height, and two internal 3.5 inch half-height disk drives.

Internal disk drive bays are always used for hard disk drives. External disk drive bays are usually used for floppy disk, CD-ROM, or tape backup drives, but can also be used for hard disks.

The System Case

The Midsize system case measures 6.88 inches high x 15 inches wide x 8.25 inches deep.

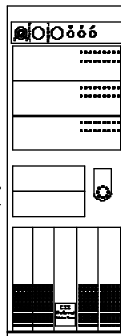


Figure 1-1: The Preferred Midsize Tower Desktop

The Front Panel

The front of the case displays three lights: the power LED, the hard disk drive LED, and the turbo LED.

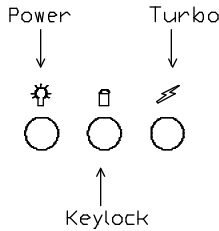


Figure 1-2: The Front Panel

The power LED simply tells you that the system is receiving power from the power supply. The hard disk LED lights when the hard disk is accessed by the system. The turboLED lights when the system is running in the faster mode.

Also located on the front panel are the ON/OFF switch, reset button, and the keylock.

The ON/OFF switch turns the computer off and on. The reset button lets you reboot the computer without turning power off to the entire system (i.e. disk drives). The keylock is a security feature that can lock the keyboard out of the system. In the locked position, input is disallowed through the keyboard.

The Rear Panel

The rear panel allows access to system feature connectors and the power supply connector:

- Power cord connector
- 110/220 Volt switch
- Serial/parallel port options
- Keyboard connector
- Cooling fan
- Expansion slot covers

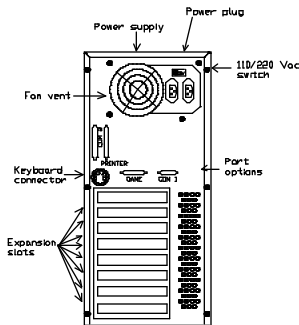


Figure 1-3: Rear View

The Keyboard

The Preferred Desktop System comes with an enhanced 101-key keyboard. The keyboard is described fully in section 3, Using the System.

Power Supply

The 200 watt power supply is more than enough to run the system, peripherals, disk drives, and expansion boards.

Section 2 - Setting Up the System

Overview

This section shows you how to assemble the Preferred System. Once everything is connected, you will be ready to power up and use the system.

You will connect the monitor cable and the key board cable to the system via connectors on the rear panel of the case. You will also connect the power cord to the power connector on the rear panel.

The System

Before proceeding, review this list. You should have most or all of these things on hand:

- The system unit
- Power cord
- Keyboard
- Monitor (optional)
- Mouse (optional) if you intend to use one
- Printer cable, if you intend to attach a printer

Assembling the System

Place the system case on or next to your desk. Remove the protective cardboard insert from the floppy diskette drive. Take a moment to study the rear panel (figure 2-1).

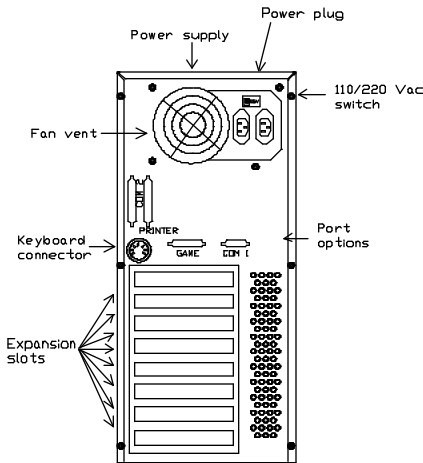


Figure 2-1: Rear View

The Monitor (optional)

There are two cables on the rear of your monitor. One is the power supply cable. The other cable carries data to the monitor, and plugs into the video card installed in your system.

- 1) Locate the video adapter's connector on the rear panel. (Refer to figure 2-1.)
- 2) Position the data cable plug attached to your monitor over the system's video connector.
- 3) Press the plug into the video connector.

- 4) If you are using the internal monitor configuration method, plug the power cord into your system's power supply. Otherwise, plug the power cable into a grounded wall outlet.

The Keyboard

- 1) Find the round, five-pin keyboard connector on the rear panel.
- 2) Take the plug attached to the keyboard and arrange it so the pins match the connector.
- 3) Firmly press the plug into the connector.

The Power Cord

The Preferred System comes with an insulated, grounded, three-pronged power cord. One end of the cord is a female plug, the other end has a three-pinned male plug.

- 1) Find the three-pronged power connector on the rear panel.
- 2) Press the power cord's female plug firmly into the connector.
- 3) Plug the male end of the power cord into a grounded outlet, or surge protector.

The Mouse (optional)

The system can be configured with optional serial and parallel port connectors (figure 2-2). To install software, refer to documentation provided with your mouse.

- 1) Find the nine-pin serial port connector on the rear panel. It has two rows of pins (four and five each).
- 2) Place the mouse plug next to the connector and press it firmly into place.

The Printer (optional)

- 1) Find the 25-pin parallel port connector on the rear panel.
- 2) Take the printer's 25-pin data cord plug.
- 3) Press the data plug firmly into the parallel port connector on the rear panel.

Plug the power connectors for all your devices into a grounded, three-pin power supply. CSS recommends that you use a power surge protector with your system and peripheral equipment.

Turning the System On

Before You Power Up

If the operating system was not pre-installed, refer to the User's Guide provided for that software. The documentation provides instructions to "boot" the first time.

Starting Up

Follow these steps:

- 1) Power up all peripherals first, i.e. printer and monitor.
- 2) Turn the system's ON/OFF toggle to the ON position.
- 3) Your system will boot, and load its operating system.

Your system's BIOS is configured at the factory with default settings. You can reconfigure your BIOS at any time. Refer to the document titled Configuration Utilities.

Section 3 - Using the System

Overview

Use this section to familiarize yourself with the features of the Preferred System. Among the topics covered, are:

- The control panel indicator LEDs
- The keyboard
- The floppy diskette drive
- Installing disk drives
- The power supply
- Rebooting the system
- Maintaining the System

The Control Panel

LEDs

The LEDs on the front panel gives you information about system operation.

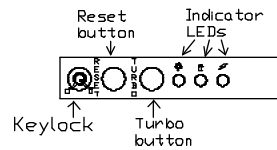


Figure 3-1: The Control Panel

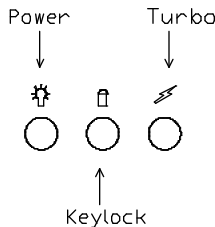


Figure 3-2: The LEDs

The Power LED indicates that the system is powered on.

The Hard Disk Drive LED indicates that the hard disk drive is in use and is lit whenever the system is accessing it.

The Turbo LED is lit when your system is running at the higher speed. The system boots at the higher speed and you will probably never need to alter it.

The Keylock

This security feature allows you to lock the keyboard, making it inoperative. Special keylock keys are provided.

The Reset Button

The system resets itself with a “warm boot” when reset is pressed.

The Turbo Button

In very rare instances, you may have a program that requires the system to run at 8 MHz. In such a case, you may configure your system to boot at the lower speed. The turbo button allows you to switch the system back to the higher speed. Note: be sure no programs are running when you press the turbo button.

On/Off Switch

The system’s on/off switch is located on the front of the case, next to the 5.25" drive bays.

The Keyboard

The keyboard is the most common way humans communicate with the computer. It is divided into four sections:

- Function Keys
- Typing Keys
- Numeric Keypad
- Cursor Control Keys

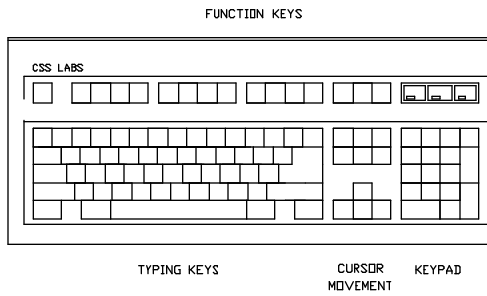


Figure 3-3: Standard 101-Key Enhanced Keyboard

A row of three green LED indicators that light up when Caps Lock, Num Lock and Scroll Lock are activated.

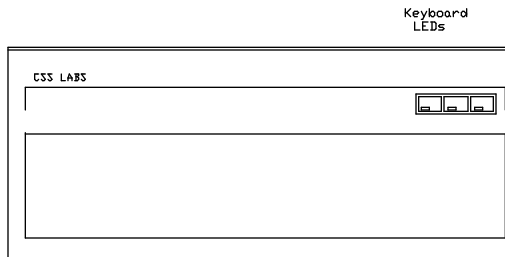


Figure 3-4: Keyboard LEDs

The Floppy Diskette Drive

The Preferred System can be configured with a 3.5 diskette drive, or a 5.25 diskette drive, or both. 3.5 diskettes are encased in a hard plastic case, and measure 3.5 inches per side.

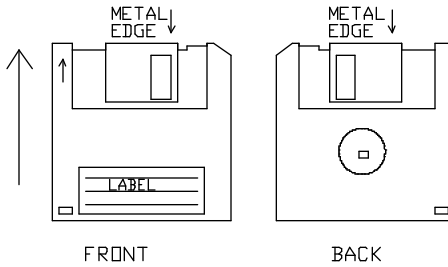


Figure 3-5: 3.5 Inch Floppy Diskette

The diskette is inserted into the drive metal-edge first, with the label side facing up.

Installing Disk Drives

The Preferred Midsize case has room for three external 5.25 inch drives, one external 3.5 inch floppy drive, and two internal 3.5 inch disk drives.

Installing a drive is quick and easy. Follow these steps:

- 1) Remove the holding screws from the side of the new disk drive. You will need them in step three.
- 2) Set the drive in the bay and align the drive's retaining screw holes with the holes on the side of the bay.
- 3) While holding the drive in place, insert the retaining screws through the holes in the side of the drive bay case and into the side of the disk drive. Do not tighten them.
- 4) Adjust the position of the disk drive in the case so that the face of the drive is even with the system face plate.
- 5) Tighten the screws to secure the drive.

The Power Supply

The Preferred System contains a 200 watt power supply, allowing you to expand your system with new drives and devices. It comes with five disk drive power cords, automatic short circuit shutdown and can be configured to operate with 110 VAC or 220 VAC.

Setting 110 or 220 VAC

The power supply may be set to operate at either 110 VAC or 220 VAC. Find the red selector switch on the back of the case. The switch is clearly marked and displays its setting.

Rebooting the Computer

There are two methods for restarting the system:

- 1) Cold or Hard Boot - Power to the system is turned off and then turned back on. The system starts up, runs the memory test and boots from the system disk. A cold boot is more thorough than a warm boot.
- 2) Warm or Soft Boot - Use the command:

<Ctrl> <Alt>

A warm boot takes less time than a cold boot. Instead of restarting from power-down, the system simply clears RAM and runs certain commands from the boot files.

Standard Maintenance

These simple steps will help you enjoy your Preferred System for a long time:

- Place your system on a very stable surface, where it will not be moved or struck. Your disk drive is very delicate and could be easily damaged.
- Do not place your system near any heat source that may damage it. These sources include heaters, sunlight, etc.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke near the computer.
- Use a surge protector with your system and any peripheral devices. Surges of power can destroy delicate computer components. Surges can also destroy data on an entire hard disk.
- Do not allow any magnetic sources to come near the machine, such as magnets or electric motors. These will damage data on your disks.
- Allow a space of about eight inches around your system for proper ventilation.
- Do not let the computer share an electrical circuit with a noisy electric motor, such as a blender or a vacuum cleaner.
- Ground yourself before touching any hardware or software, by touching the system case. This discharges static electricity in your body. Static electricity damages delicate components.